25th September 1956]

Strictures against certain officers of the Co-operative department

* 223 *Q*.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the strictures passed early in 1956 by the Ottapalam Assistant Sessions Judge against some of the officers of the Co-operative department in his judgment in the case connected with the President of the Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies, Limited, Varode, Walluvanad taluk, Malabar; and

(*b*) if so, whether any action has been taken against the officers concerned?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) Departmental action is being taken against three Junior Inspectors who were connected with the Society either as Territorial Inspectors or as Auditors.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, some of the departmental officers who conducted the special enquiry recommended certain action to be taken, and it is in violation of this the Malabar District Co-operative Bank took measures and therefore is guilty of negligence. Will the Government make enquiries as to the part which the District Bank had in this matter and take proper action?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Sir, I would like to know whether the hon. Member is referring to the officers of the department or the staff connected with the Bank.

DR. K. B. MENON : May I know, Sir, whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the reference in the judgment to the officers of the District Bank and the recommendation of the Court for making a careful enquiry into the matter? Have the Government taken any action or do they propose to take any action?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The lapse of the Bank's officers had been discussed at a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bank, and it has been decided to institute a regular enquiry into the matter. The results of the enquiry are awaited.

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Sir, it was alleged in the judgment that the Secretary of the Bank was rather showing criminal negligence in the matter of taking action against the society. There is also the allegation against a Senior Inspector of the Bank that he made it an occasion to purchase property of the President of the Society worth a few thousands of rupees in the name of his wife. May I know whether these facts have come to the notice of the Government and, if so, what action the Government propose to take in these two specific cases?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Yes, Sir. The matter is under enquiry.